

Mark Cross

VICTIM IMPACT STATEMENT

Victim's Name: Marilyn Cross (Mom of Mark Cross – Asst. Coach)

Police Service: R.C.M.P.

Offence Date: April 6, 2018

Offence Location: Hwy 35 & 335

File Number: 2018-446743

"If people knew how much I truly missed you, they would wonder how I am still breathing."

- Quote from Forever Loved and Missed

Mark, if people knew how much I truly missed you, they would wonder how I am still breathing.

Losing my son, Mark Cross, has ripped out my core and devastated every member of our family. There is no "new normal". Right now there is only heartbreak, agony, sadness, fear, emptiness and pain. I often fear we will not all survive. After 27 years of caring, nurturing and loving Mark, I am so angry I could not have protected and saved him on April 6, 2018. What I wouldn't do to trade my life for his. He had so much more to offer to the world.

Mark was many things to many people. I think the new award created by York University – ***Heart of a Lion*** represents him well with the acronym of his name: **C-R-O-S-S**

C – CHARACTER

R – RESPECT

O – OPTIMISM

S – SACRIFICE

S – SELFLESSNESS

There is not enough time and space to tell you what an amazing person our son was and all the ways he left this world a better place. (Some day google his name "Mark Cross" and see the impact he made in his short 27 years.

I MISS SO MANY THINGS ABOUT Mark, but most of all I miss the small things...

I MISS his smirk as well as his beautiful full smile.

I MISS his knowing head nod.

I MISS his “*Thanks Mama*” and “*I love you Mama*”.

I MISS his beautiful, handsome face.

I MISS his wonderful sense of humour and genuine laugh.

I MISS the feeling of completeness when all our family was home together.

I MISS his quiet confidence and the wisdom he possessed as such a young man.

I MISS how he made me feel that all things would work out and be okay.

I MISS how he would indulge me by letting me baby and pamper him by doing the things for him that I'd always done.

I MISS visiting the stores he liked to shop in and find a t-shirt to surprise him with.

I MISS grocery shopping and looking for special foods and treats he always liked.

Although his fridge was filled with healthy thing like chicken beasts, salad, avocados – I miss buying unhealthy treats like Trix Cereal, double stuffed Oreos, and Cadbury Mini eggs.

I MISS making his favourite meal – Steak, baked potatoes, Caesar salad and garlic toast.

I MISS baking him chocolate chip cookies and brownies.

I MISS seeing him on the couch planning and researching his future.

I MISS seeing him and Molly together.

I MISS all our hockey experiences with him as well as all the beautiful hockey families we came to know and all the wonderful hockey players and coaches.

I MISS his enthusiasm for life and positive attitude in tough situations.

I MISS the adult relationship we were beginning to have the last few years.

I MISS my Christmas boy – Santa hat on his head, decorating the tree, putting the star on top, handing out the presents.

I MISS his excitement of the Christmas eve fondue and playing board games.

I MISS him coming home each Christmas to make decorated Christmas sugar cookies with me – which we have done since he was a small boy.

I MISS how handsome and well put together he always looked.

I MISS his compassion, kindness and thoughtfulness.

I MISS is genuine love for life, for where he was headed, and for what was to come.

I MISS the smell of his laundry.

I MISS what a good brother he was to his sister and brother and how excited he was to be an uncle.

I MISS his warm hugs where he would pull me tight to his chest – one hand on my head and one on my back and I could feel the pure and powerful love he had for me.

A FEW THINGS I WILL MISS IN THE FUTURE:

I WILL MISS seeing Mark and Molly get married.

I WILL MISS seeing Mark become the amazing father he would have been.

I WILL MISS seeing where his future would have taken him as he was so full of potential.

I WILL MISS seeing Mark and his siblings go through the various stages of life together.

I WILL MISS always having Mark as a part of my life until it is over.

I GRIEVE for our loss and hate what this has done to the individuals in our family and Molly.

I GRIEVE for Mark's extended family, his friends, his teammates and coaches.

I GRIEVE for all the families of those 29 people on the bus.


I GRIEVE the loss of all these things and many more too numerous to list.

Mr. Sidhu, **I GRIEVE** for you as well.

I am not sure I am yet ready to forgive the choice you made that fateful night of April 6, 2018 but I don't hate you. When I look at you I see a young man not much older than our son, Mark.

I GRIEVE for the guilt you must carry for the rest of your days.



I don't know if you are married or have children, but I grieve for the loss your family will experience. I grieve for the loss of your freedom and future. No one will escape the horrors of this tragedy.



I am so relieved that you have chosen to plead guilty, and I admire your courage to do this. Expressing remorse for your actions can't bring back our son, Mark but it does mean a lot to hear this.

It is hard to see any good that has come from this tragedy, but there have been a few things like more organ donations, a focus on truck driver training, a push for seatbelts, etc.

Finally, in your future, I hope you make every effort to live a productive life doing good wherever you go. Make the world a better place just like our son, Mark, did.





2 months before the accident I had to do an exercise in one of my nursing classes that involved us writing down the top three most important people in our lives on separate pieces of paper. The next step was then to take a piece of paper away and talk about how the loss of this person would affect your life. Let me tell you, I was genuinely angry about this exercise. I immediately was brought to tears. How could I possibly think about how it would feel for me to lose Mark? The words that came out of my mouth were that "losing Mark was my worst nightmare". And I meant that. I refused to even fathom the idea of losing him. What a stupid exercise I thought to myself. I refused to think about something so devastatingly awful and something that I also believed would never ever happen to me. And now here I am, living through what I explained to my classmate as my absolute worst nightmare. It makes me sick to my stomach

Honestly there are no words that could ever feel sufficient enough to explain how the loss of Mark has made me feel. I don't even feel like I'm living my life. I'm in this awful state where I am on autopilot to get through the days. But I try my best to push myself through each day because the worst part of all of this is the fact that Mark is unable to be here. I know he would do anything to still be here with all of us. He lived life better than anyone I've ever known. He always had so much on his plate and I can say very honestly that he never complained about any of it. He always felt thankful for every opportunity he had. His work ethic was something I always admired about him. And all of his interactions with people were 100% genuine. Mark was also so unbelievably caring. The amount of thoughtful gestures, big or small that he did out of pure love for me, is something I will always cherish. Gosh he was just so wonderful.

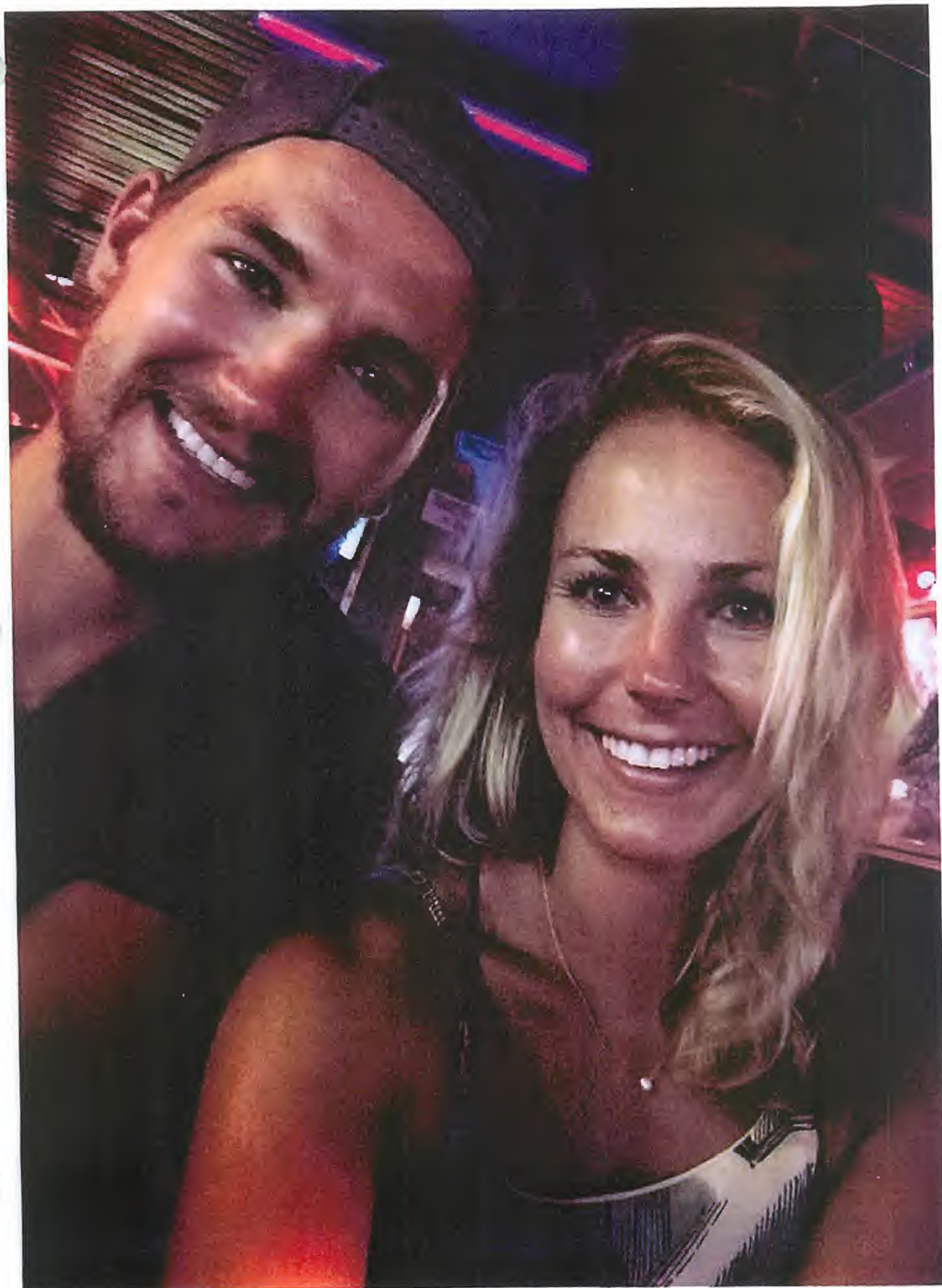
Mark had so much left to do. He just started his first real job. I still remember the day he got the call from Darcy about getting the assistant coaching position. The look on his face immediately brought me tears of joy. He was so genuinely excited for the opportunity. It was just the beginning of his career. I know he would have gone so far as a coach. But coaching and hockey are just a part of who Mark was.

Mark would have been the best dad. He was already the most wonderful uncle to Wrenn. It melted my heart to see the two of them together. Mark also has a new nephew that he never even got the chance to meet. His name is Theo Mark Schnell, and now I'll only get to dream about how much fun they would have had together. Mark and I always looked forward to one day raising kids of our own and we would talk about how fun it would be to raise them alongside our nieces and nephews.

Mark and I were together for ten years and a lot of people would always bug us about not being engaged. But honestly it didn't bother me one bit. I knew we would get married one day but I didn't feel pressure to because with Mark everything just felt right. I knew that every new milestone we would meet would be wonderful as we carried on through life, but I didn't need to look to the future for happiness because there was so much right in the moment. We always had people tell us that they admired us as a couple. Sometimes this bothered me because we had our issues just like every couple but you know what, they were right, what we had was special and not everyone is lucky to have that with someone. I know I was so very lucky to have him, but I also know he felt the same about me. What we had was unique and I am so very

thankful that I got 10 years of that. But let me tell you, those 10 years are not enough. We had so much time left. So much life to live together. I could go on forever but as I mentioned before, words are truly insufficient when it comes to how I feel. But I felt the need to write something because I don't want anyone else to ever have to go through what the other families and I are going through. It is truly my worst nightmare and if a glimpse into what I am going through can be even a small step towards change then I will do it. Mark was and always will be the most wonderful person I have ever known in my life. He was my light, my love, my home, he was my person. And now the love I have for Mark has shattered my heart. No length of sentence will alleviate this feeling for me because the only thing that could is to have Mark back. But my hope is that change can come from this. Enough change so that an accident that could have been avoided doesn't have the chance to completely ruin anymore lives.

Molly Schnell



VICTIM IMPACT STATEMENT

For court use only
Information Number

Victim's Name Leah Moten (Mark Cross' sister) Police Service RCMP
Offence Date April 6, 2018 Offence Location Highway 35 and 335 Incident/File Number _____

This form may be used to provide a description of the physical or emotional harm, property damage or economic loss suffered by you as the result of the commission of an offence, as well as a description of the impact of the offence on you. You may attach additional pages if you need more space.

Your statement must not include:

- any statement about the offence or the offender that is not relevant to the harm or loss you suffered;
- any unproven allegations;
- any comments about any offence for which the offender was not convicted;
- any complaint about any individual, other than the offender, who was involved in the investigation or prosecution of the offence; or
- except with the court's approval, an opinion or recommendation about the sentence.

You may present a detailed account of the impact the offence has had on your life. The following sections are examples of information you may wish to include in your statement. You are not required to include all of this information.

Emotional impact

Describe how the offence has affected you emotionally. For example, think of:

- your lifestyle and activities;
- your relationships with others such as your spouse, family and friends;
- your ability to work, attend school or study; and
- your feelings, emotions and reactions as they relate to the offence.

Please see attached document.

Physical impact

Describe how the offence has affected you physically. For example, think of:

- ongoing physical pain, discomfort, illness, scarring, disfigurement or physical limitations;
- hospitalization or surgery you have had because of the offence;
- treatment, physiotherapy or medication you have been prescribed;
- the need for any further treatment or the expectation that you will receive further treatment; and
- any permanent or long-term disability.

Since April 6, 2018, I have had to attend multiple counseling sessions and have recently been prescribed Anti-Anxiety medication for moderate-severe Generalized Anxiety Disorder and Panic Attacks.

Economic impact

Describe how the offence has affected you financially. For example, think of:

- the value of any property that was lost or damaged and the cost of repairs or replacement;
- any financial loss due to missed time from work;
- the cost of any medical expenses, therapy or counselling; and
- any costs or losses that are not covered by insurance.

Please note that this is not an application for compensation or restitution.

As I live out of country, I took many flights in order to attend services for Mark. I also had to request a 2 month unpaid Leave of Absence after his death.

Fears for security

Describe any fears you have for your security or that of your family and friends. For example, think of:

- concerns with respect to contact with the offender; and
- concerns with respect to contact between the offender and members of your family or close friends.

Drawing, poem or letter

You may use this space to draw a picture or write a poem or letter if it will help you express the impact that the offence has had on you.

☐ I would like to present my statement in court.

To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this statement is true.

Dated this 16 day of January 2019, at Houston, Texas, USA

Signature of declarant

Jeesh Matar

If you completed this statement on behalf of the victim, please indicate the reasons why you did so and the nature of your relationship to the victim

Dated this _____ day of _____ 20_____, at _____

Signature of declarant _____

Mark Cross Victim Impact Statement

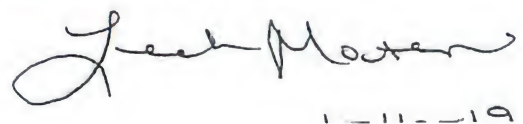
In an effort to write this in a way that Mark would be proud, I intend to be honest and fair. Loss of life is jarring, both for the victim and the people who loved them. You can't truly articulate this form of loss, it is unfathomable. The emptiness is consuming. Everyday life doesn't feel real; it just feels like you are in a really sad, confusing, never-ending saga. So many have lost because of this event. Mark and I were 7 years apart – I count myself truly lucky as, in the last 10 years, Mark and I became very close. Losing Mark has broken my parents and my brother. I want to help them, but it's beyond difficult to try to help when you yourself are trying to make sense of it and find some sort of peace. We have struggled to put the pieces of our family back together, a feat that I am unsure can ever really happen. Mark was always the Light for our family. Always the calm in the storm. I delighted in the thought of sharing my life with him and Molly, which now, is no longer an option. He is my little brother; I miss him with an intensity that I never knew existed. The void is infinite.

Although 'Uncle Mark' is spoke of often in our house, my 2 year old daughter, Wrenn (or 'Wrennie' as Mark called her), has been deprived of his love and encouragement, playful uncle giggles and his incredibly inspiring influence. The path that she will now lead, will have to be without Uncle Mark. And although she will grow up with stories about Uncle Mark, hear of how he was admired and respected by all that met him and see photos of herself with him when she was 1½; he would have added so much joy to her life; now she will have to settle with him as her Guardian Angel. I struggle with this as a parent. Parents innately want to give their children every opportunity to be their best self, and I am undoubtedly certain that Mark **would** have played an integral part in shaping her into the person she would become.

Often times when someone passes on, loved ones tend to embellish their qualities in order to honor them. This was not required for Mark; his character spoke for itself. His reach was so far. If you are looking for proof, look no further than the incredible homage his Alma Mater, York University, has paid to him with their 'Mark Cross Heart of a Lion Award, the highest athletic achievement an athlete can be given at the university; or the scholarship York created in his honor, or this year's York Men's Hockey Program having 'MC18' inscribed on every jersey. York men's Hockey Program believed so much in Mark's character and outlook on life that they created an acronym from his last name with the expectation that every player moving forward, would embody these qualities, same as Mark (C – character, R – respect, O – optimism, S – sacrifice, S – Selflessness). You can also speak to his friends and family, to whom he was just Mark, a regular guy that we loved to be around. He was an inspiration for positive growth. At his memorial service, countless young men independently approached me and all said the single most incredible thing you can hear as a sibling: they said that Mark made them want to be a better person/man. Think of the ripple effect of that. Just ONE person making a positive change can effect hundreds of people, and I heard this sentiment about Mark from countless people. Imagine the effect he could have made if he was still here. He still had work to do, the world still needed him. Outside of the extrinsic perspective of me or my family or my daughter, one question has stayed with me for all of this time..... What has HE lost? He was only 27 years old. He lost the ability to marry the love of his life, his girlfriend of 10 years, Molly Schnell. He won't get to be a dad – he would have been a great one. He won't shape and mould young Canadian Hockey players into, not just amazing players, but incredible human beings. And for as far as his reach has gone, how much more could he have done to help society by simply living his truth? It's immeasurable.

I am so SO proud of him and he continues to inspire me every single day. What a juxtaposition it is, to be so proud of someone and still feel so much grief in their absence. I feel so badly for everyone involved, including the driver. I have no hate in my heart for him. I can't; Mark wouldn't be cool with that. This does not negate the fact that negligence has permanently removed one of the most important people in my life.

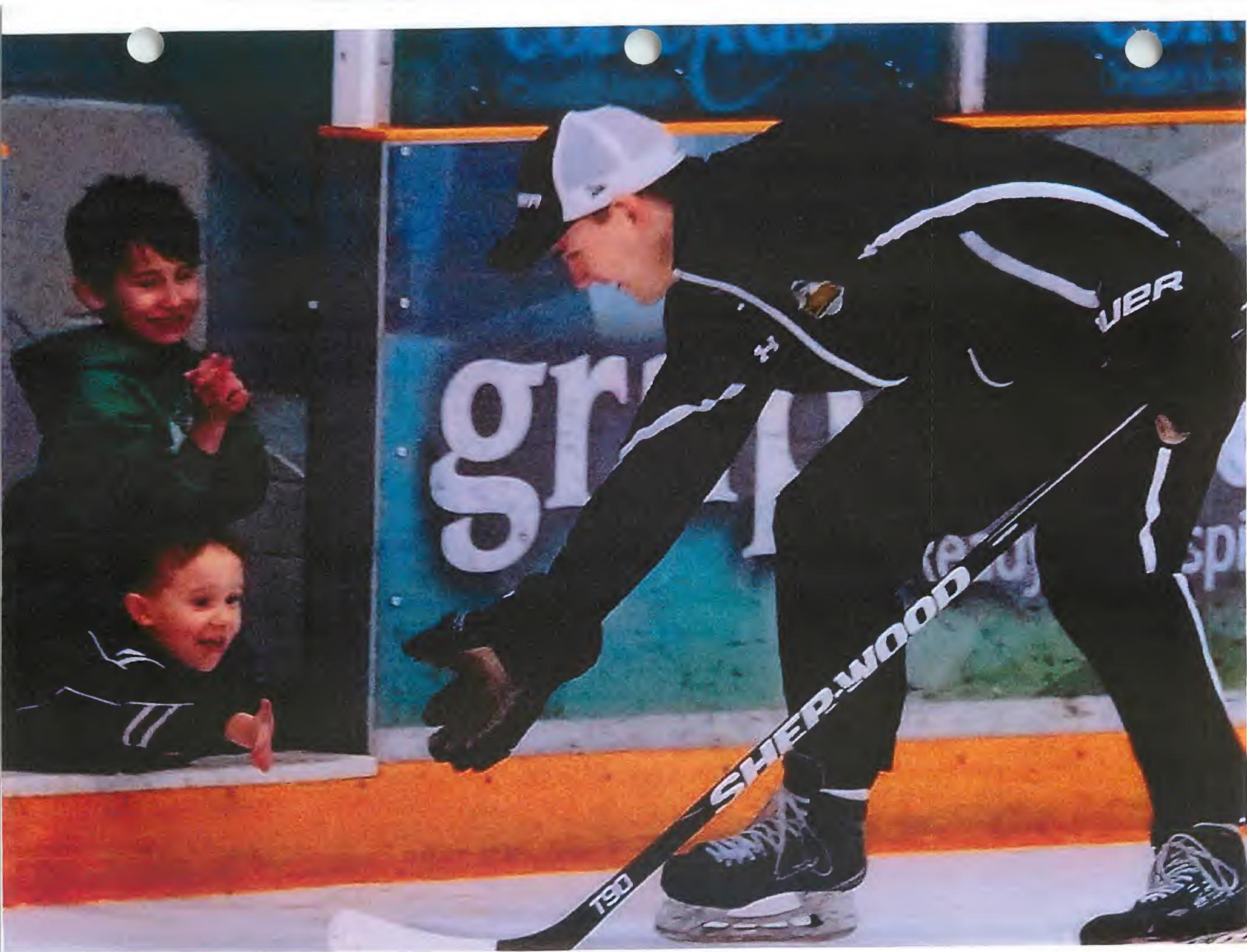
Leah Moten (Mark Cross' sister)



11-11-19







VICTIM IMPACT STATEMENT

For court use only
Information Number

Victim's Name Rob & Lori Durant + family Police Service _____
Offence Date April 6/18 Offence Location Humboldt Broncos Incident/File Number _____
ACCIDENT

This form may be used to provide a description of the physical or emotional harm, property damage or economic loss suffered by you as the result of the commission of an offence, as well as a description of the impact of the offence on you. You may attach additional pages if you need more space.

Your statement must not include:

- any statement about the offence or the offender that is not relevant to the harm or loss you suffered;
- any unproven allegations;
- any comments about any offence for which the offender was not convicted;
- any complaint about any individual, other than the offender, who was involved in the investigation or prosecution of the offence; or
- except with the court's approval, an opinion or recommendation about the sentence.

You may present a detailed account of the impact the offence has had on your life. The following sections are examples of information you may wish to include in your statement. You are not required to include all of this information.

Emotional impact

Describe how the offence has affected you emotionally. For example, think of:

- your lifestyle and activities;
- your relationships with others such as your spouse, family and friends;
- your ability to work, attend school or study; and
- your feelings, emotions and reactions as they relate to the offence.

* Due to the length of our statement, please find attached a copy of our Victim Impact statement where we express our emotional impact from the Humboldt Broncos accident. *

Physical impact

Describe how the offence has affected you physically. For example, think of:

- ongoing physical pain, discomfort, illness, scarring, disfigurement or physical limitations;
- hospitalization or surgery you have had because of the offence;
- treatment, physiotherapy or medication you have been prescribed;
- the need for any further treatment or the expectation that you will receive further treatment; and
- any permanent or long-term disability.

- N/A -

Economic impact

Describe how the offence has affected you financially. For example, think of:

- the value of any property that was lost or damaged and the cost of repairs or replacement;
- any financial loss due to missed time from work;
- the cost of any medical expenses, therapy or counselling; and
- any costs or losses that are not covered by insurance.

Please note that this is not an application for compensation or restitution.

- N/A -

Fears for security

Describe any fears you have for your security or that of your family and friends. For example, think of:

- concerns with respect to contact with the offender; and
- concerns with respect to contact between the offender and members of your family or close friends.

- N/A -

Drawing, poem or letter

You may use this space to draw a picture or write a poem or letter if it will help you express the impact that the offence has had on you.

- N/A -

☐ I would like to present my statement in court.

To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this statement is true.

Dated this 20 day of January 20 19, at Tisdale, Saskatchewan

Signature of declarant _____

If you completed this statement on behalf of the victim, please indicate the reasons why you did so and the nature of your relationship to the victim

Dated this 20 day of January 20 19, at Tisdale, SK

Signature of declarant _____

Victim Impact Statement Durant Family

We are the Durant family and on behalf of the late Mark Cross this is our victim statement that pertains to the tragic April 6, 2018 Humboldt Broncos crash.

We had the honour of getting to know Mark when we welcomed him into our home and family when we billeted him while he was a hockey player for the Tisdale Trojans. Since he first entered our home it was obvious that a lifetime relationship with this caring, outgoing, funny, heart of gold young man with exceptional values would be something our family would be looking forward to for many years. He became apart of our family like our own son, brother, and his family all became our extended family. Mark was someone we were VERY proud of and like our own children we were excited to watch all of his accomplishments he successfully succeeded in along the way.

When he became an assistant coach of the Broncos we were overjoyed that those young men were going to be gifted with the heart, determination, desire and vast knowledge of the game of hockey that Mark would bring with him to the team, as well as strong leadership skills and the natural ability to make everyone feel important.

April 6th, 2018 was a day our family will NEVER forget. We had just landed in Regina from a holiday when our phones started to receive many messages to call one of our sons right away for an emergency. We were then informed that there had been a terrible bus accident just outside of our home town of Tisdale and that the bus involved was carrying the Humboldt Broncos and it was very bad. In disbelief we hurried through customs and at that time the panic on our end set in. Was Mark okay? Was Charlie from Charlie Charters whom we are friends with ok? How were the others? I immediately reached out to Marks mom Marilyn and was heartbroken for her to hear that they couldn't locate Mark at this time but things weren't looking good. We then got confirmation that there were many fatalities and that something one would only see on T.V was in reality happening only km's away from our hometown.

I will never forget the desperation we felt to want to help the Cross family find Mark, nor will we ever forget the pain we felt when we were give then news that Mark had not survived. I will always remember the helpless feeling of trying to console our daughter for the remainder 2.5 hour ride home while she cried and sobbed uncontrollably from hearing the news that her billet brother and one of her hero's was now a victim rather than a survivor. That day will forever be embedded in our minds and hearts.

The tragedy has impacted us in many ways and we have been through many emotions; hurt, sadness, worry, and even anger. Some sort of closure has been difficult for us as we pass the accident scene regularly, so its a constant reminder of Mark and all those lives lost so senselessly, tragically and avoidable.

We find ourselves as parents worried for our oldest son whom helps coach hockey and travels on buses occasionally. We worry about our middle son who plays senior hockey and travels lots. And finally we worry for our daughter-in-law who is a RN nurse and was on duty the night of the crash and saw things only a code orange would bring into her care. We hope as time passes we can slowly begin to heal and our hearts can have some forgiveness, but Mark being taken so tragically is a blow to the heart that will take years to piece back together.

(page 2 continued...)

Mark was a positive impact on everyone and every situation he was involved in, and its so incredibly sad and tragic that the world doesn't get to have his presence anymore. The world needs more people like Mark! We were so very blessed with the time we were given with Mark and will cherish our memories we have. On April 6th, 2018 we lost a billet son, brother, and friend, but Heaven gained one of many beautiful angels to watch over many of us.

On behalf of our family, Rob, Lori, Tyler, Jordan and Ally Durant we love you Mark and you will forever be in our hearts and part of our family!